

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00975 131010Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 /099 W
-----131045Z 046477 /20

R 121002Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4958
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOWCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI
USLO PEKING
USUN NEW NEW YORK 540

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0975

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SO
SUBJECT: GSDR ESCALATES PROPAGANDA ATTACKS ON ETHIOPIA

REFS: A) MOGADISCIO 0974 B) MOGADISCIO 0960 (NOTAL)
C) MOGADISCIO 0917 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS RELATIVE SILENCE ON ETHIOPIA, SOMALI
OFFICIAL MEDIA HAVE BEGUN TO ATTACK ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY
GOVERNMENT (EPMG) IN STRONGEST TERMS AND TO CARRY REGULAR
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ACCOUNTS OF MOUNTING VIOLENCE INSIDE THAT COUNTRY.

2. AUTHORIZED STATEMENT CARRIED JUNE 5 BY SOMALI NATIONAL NEWS
AGENCY (SONNA) ACCUSED "BLOODTHIRSTY" EPMG OF ENGAGING IN
"INDESCRIMINATE AND BARBAROUS MASSACRES" OF PEOPLES FIGHTING FOR
SELF-DETERMINATION AND, COINCIDENTALLY, DENIED GSDR RE-
SPONSIBILITY FOR RECENT RAILROAD ATTACK (MOGADISCIO 0917).

3. ATTRIBUTING INFORMATION TO "LIBERATION MOVEMENTS" INSIDE ETHIOPIA, SONNA REPORTED JUNE 8 THAT THERE WAS "FIERCE FIGHTING" IN PROVINCES "HARAR, SIDAMO, BALE, ARUSSI, GOJJAM, BEGEMDIR, SAMEN, SHOA AND ERITREA". IT SAID LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WERE IN FULL CONTROL OF COUNTRYSIDE, INCLUDING MAIN ROADS, AND THAT FIGHTING WAS CONCENTRATED AROUND "HARAR, JIJIGA, EL-KARAY, IMEY, GINDIR, GOBA, GONDAR, DEBRE MARKOS, ADDIS ABABA AND ASMARA". WITH ETHIOPIAN ARMY "UNDER SIEGE" IN MANY PLACES, BEING ABLE TO OBTAIN SUPPLIES ONLY THROUGH AIRLIFT IT WAS RESORTING TO "ROBBERY, LOOTING AND BURTUAL MASSACRES OF INNOCENT PEOPLE". MOREOVER, EPMG EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE PEASANT'S MILITIA HAD "UTTERLY FAILED" AND INEVITABLE END OF ETHIOPIAN "COLONIALISM" WAS FAST APPROACHING.

4. SONNA REPORTED JUNE 10 THAT 370 ETHIOPIAN SOLDIERS HAD BEEN KILLED AND 18 VEHICLES DESTROYED IN FIGHTING AT "JARE, BALE PROIVINCE", MAY 30. SAME DAY, 113 SOLDIERS WERE KILLED, 18 VEHICLES DESTROYED AND 31 GUNS CAPTURED AT "GODI FAFAN". FIFTEEN SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND 5 VEHICLES CAPTURED AT "GODAY" JUNE 9. SONNA ALSO CITED ALLEGED REUTERS REPORT THAT "THOUSANDS" OF ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES HAVE FLED TO KENYA TO SAVE THEMSELVES FROM VENGEFUL ETHIOPIAN ARMY TROOPS.

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5. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS NOT IN A POSITION TO VERIFY
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SONNA REPORTS ABOUT SPECIFIC BATTLES IN ETHIOPIA, BUT REPORTS APPARENTLY DO REFLECT RISING LEVEL VIOLENCE THERE, IN WHICH GSDR IS PLAYING MORE THAN PASSIVE ROLE.
LOUGHRAN

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Disposition Remarks:
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